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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-15, and 18-25 are presented for examination, wherein claims 1, 8-10, 13 and 18 are currently amended. Claims 2, 7, and 15-17 are cancelled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Harris A Pitlick on April 12, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 13 (newly amended): A mixed powder for powder metallurgy, prepared by mixing a lubricant for powder metallurgy of claim 1 ~~comprising a polyhydroxycarboxylic acid amide of the following formula (1):~~



~~(wherein R¹ represents an alkyl group having from 2 to 10 carbon atoms and substituted with plural hydroxyl groups; R² represents a hydrocarbon group having from 8 to 30 carbon atoms; and R³ represents a hydrogen atom, or a hydrocarbon group having from 1 to 30 carbon atoms); and a metal powder.~~

Claim 24 (newly amended): A mixed powder for powder metallurgy, prepared by mixing a lubricant for powder metallurgy of claim ~~[[15]]~~ 1, and a metal powder.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 3-6, 8-15, and 18-25 are allowed.

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3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the combination of the two compositions of the lubricant of formula (1) and the auxiliary lubricant of formula (2) have an unexpected reduction in flowability and flow diameter, as evidenced by examples 1 and 7 compared to examples 4 and 5 in Table 2 (see also specification pp.44-45), thereby providing an unexpected result.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSHITOSHI TAKEUCHI whose telephone number is (571) 270-5828. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 9:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dr. Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ Roy King/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit
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/YOSHITOSHI TAKEUCHI/

Examiner, Art Unit 1793